

Columbia River Fishery Review

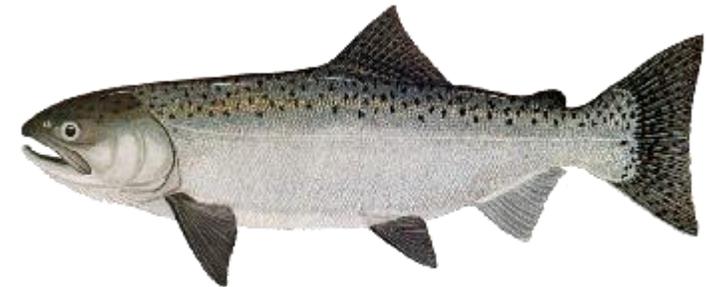
PRESENTED BY BILL TWEIT, SPECIAL ASSISTANT, FISH PROGRAM

WASHINGTON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2017

Outline

- ❖ Background
- ❖ Current Policy
- ❖ Spring Chinook – Allocation, Management Buffers and Catch Balance
- ❖ Catch Sharing – Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Fall Chinook
- ❖ Response to Constituent Letters
- ❖ Update on Draft Harvest Framework
- ❖ Columbia River Management Unit



Background

- Spring Chinook are found throughout the Columbia River basin
- Upriver spring Chinook include two ESA-listed components
 - Upper Columbia River (Above PRD) and Snake River
- Management guidelines included in:
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement
 - Washington commission policy



Current Policy

- Columbia River Basin Salmon Management policy (C-3620)
 - Highlights conservation as highest priority
 - Guidance on fishery allocation
 - Sport/commercial
 - Within sport
 - Designed to provide broad geographic opportunity



Upriver Spring Chinook – Allocation

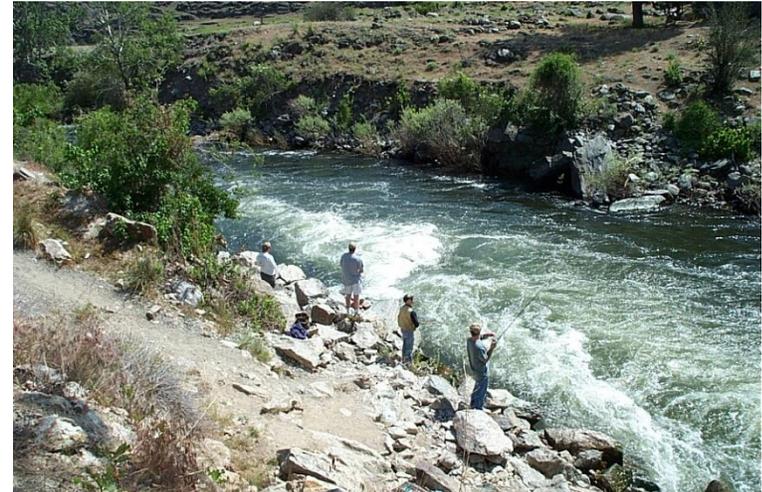
- Allocation from current policy (C-3620) for sport fisheries
 - “The Department will ensure broad geographic distribution of recreational fishing opportunity in the main-stem Columbia River including the Snake River.”
 - Below Bonneville Dam – 75%
 - Above Bonneville Dam – 25%
 - Bonneville to McNary – 10%
 - Snake River 15%
 - “After the run-size update, the Department will place the highest sport fishery priority on providing for a sport fishery upstream from Bonneville Dam.”



Upriver Spring Chinook

Management Buffers

- Prior to run size update – 30% buffer
- This means that non-treaty fisheries will be managed for a run size that is 70% of the preseason forecast
- The buffer is divided between the sport and commercial fisheries
- Sport fishery buffer – 20%
- Commercial fishery buffer – 40%



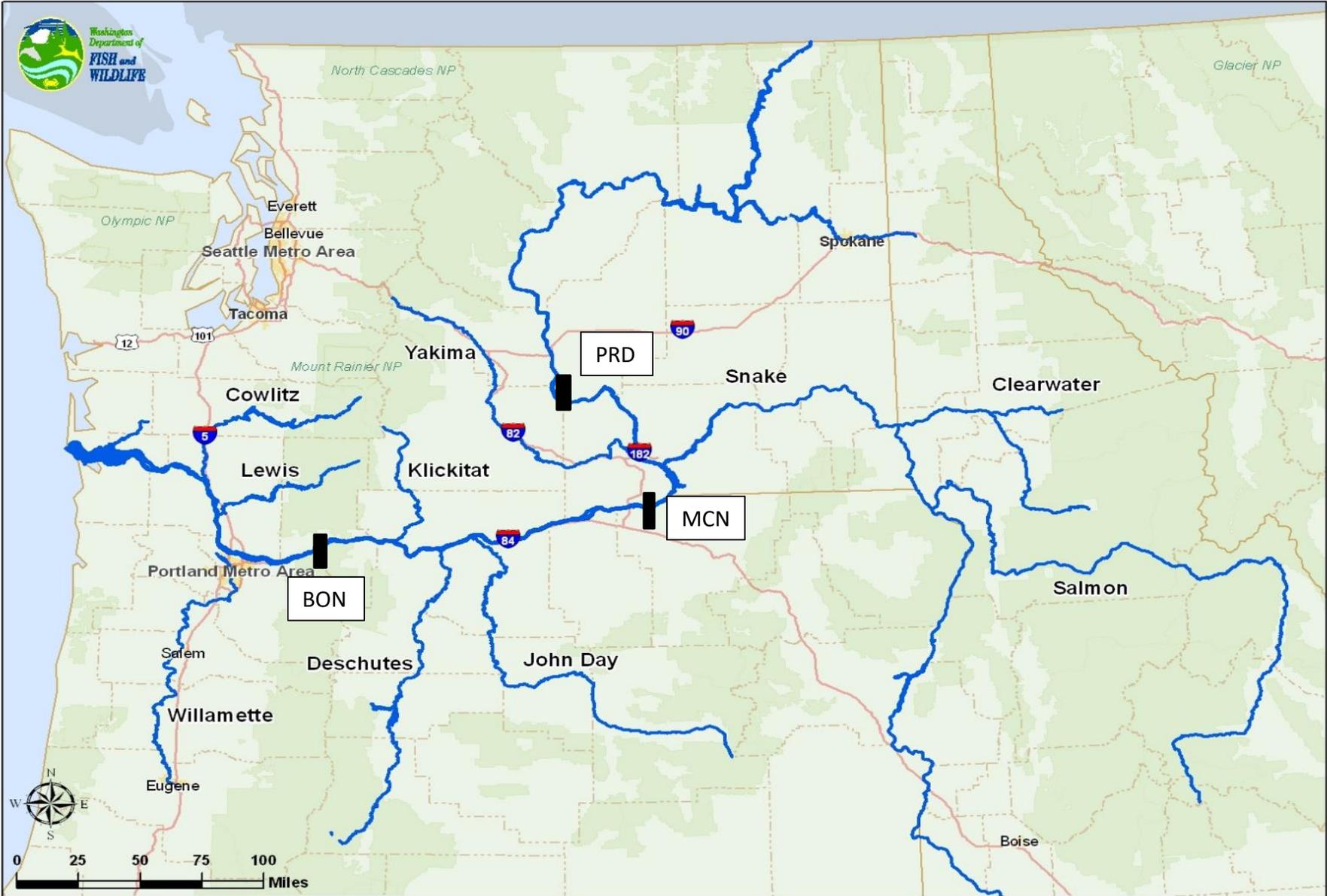
Upriver Spring Chinook

Catch Balance

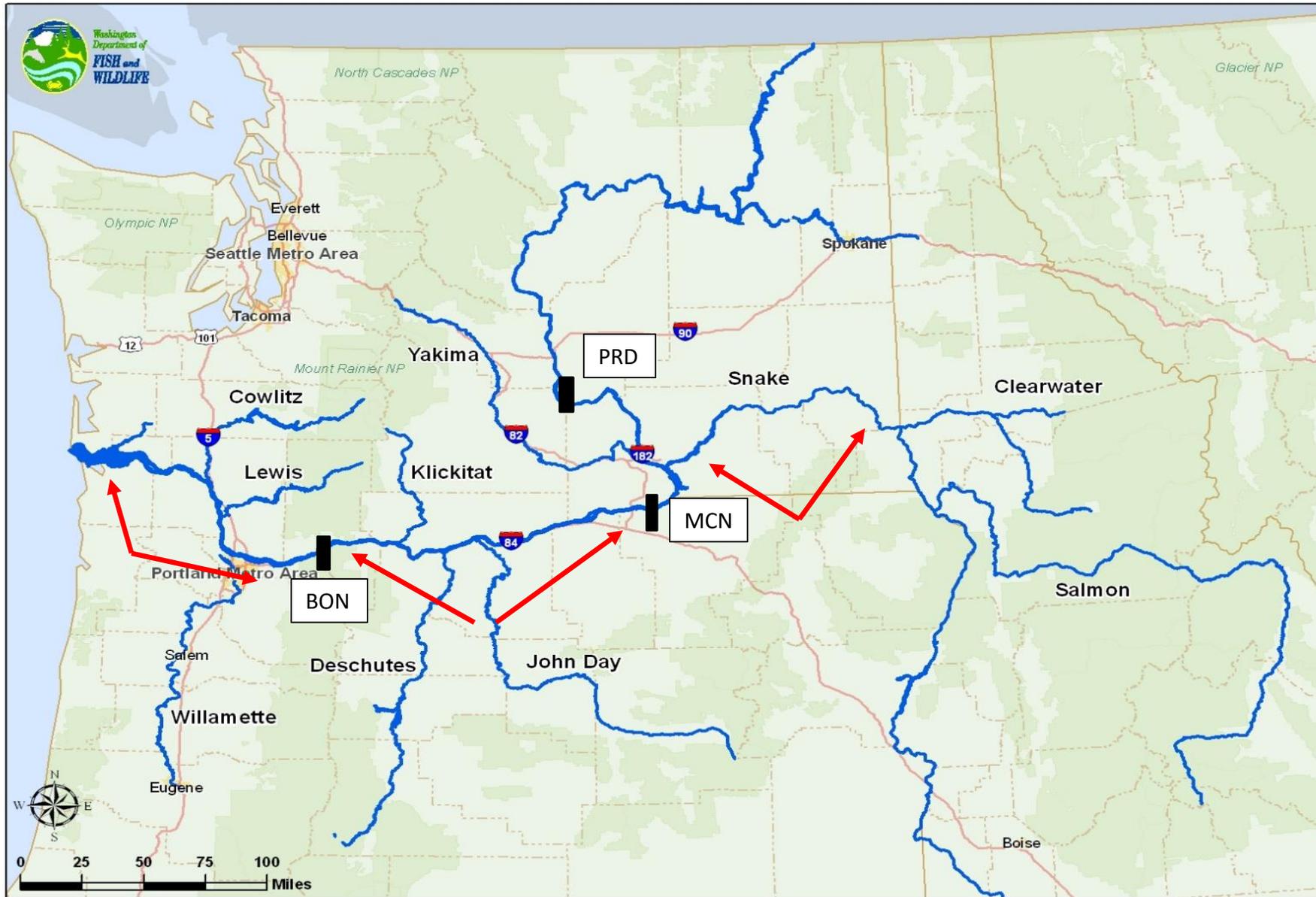
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* 2008-2017 Management Agreement, “...the Parties expect that mainstem fisheries on upriver spring Chinook and Snake River summer Chinook will achieve catches roughly matching those shown in ...Attachment B.”
- Catches for non-treaty and treaty Indian fisheries will be roughly the same
- Catch balance provisions will often become the first limiter in non-treaty fisheries
 - i.e. ESA impacts are often not as limiting as catch balance



Map of Columbia River Basin



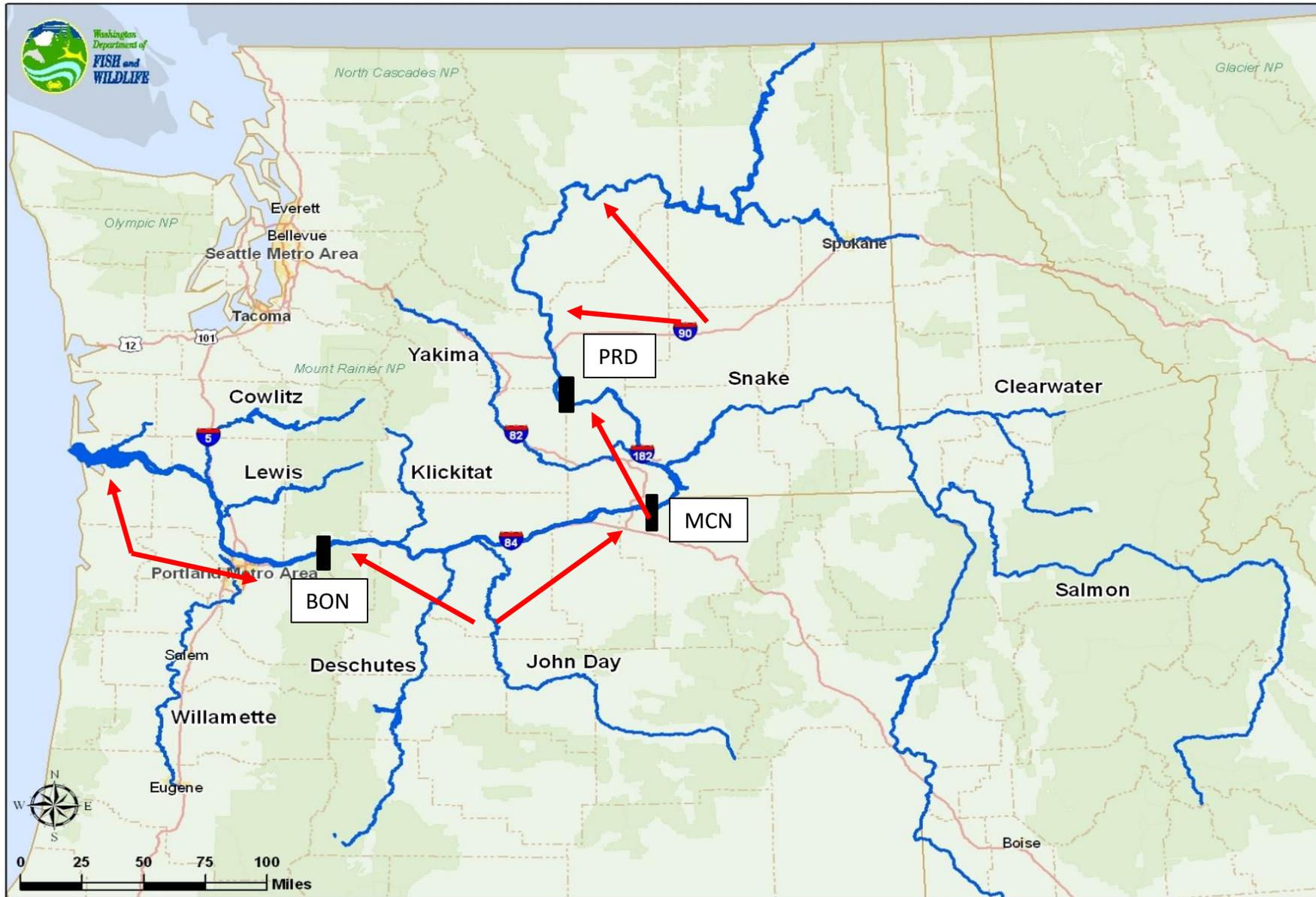
Spring Chinook Fishing Zones



Upriver Spring Chinook Sport Harvest

Year	Below Bonn	Bonn to MCN	MCN to Hwy 395	Snake	Total	Percent Below Bonn	Percent Above Bonn
2012	10,422	1,282	107	2,316	14,126	74%	26%
2013	5,343	1,093	37	319	6,792	79%	21%
2014	13,572	4,208	161	1,419	19,359	70%	30%
2015	15,689	1,647	119	1,455	18,909	83%	17%
2016	10,167	1,480	54	1,001	12,701	80%	20%
Average	11,038	1,942	96	1,302	14,378	77%	23%

Summer Chinook Fishing Zones



Summer Chinook Sport Harvest

Year	Below Bonn	Bonn to MCN	MCN to PRD	Above PRD	Total	Percent Below PRD	Percent Above PRD
2012	3,281	231	65	3,980	7,557	47%	53%
2013	2,058	176	148	2,899	5,281	45%	55%
2014	2,385	308	146	2,875	5,713	50%	50%
2015	6,152	609	177	4,823	11,760	59%	41%
2016	3,706	361	205	4,214	8,484	50%	50%
Average	3,516	337	148	3,758	7,759	50%	50%

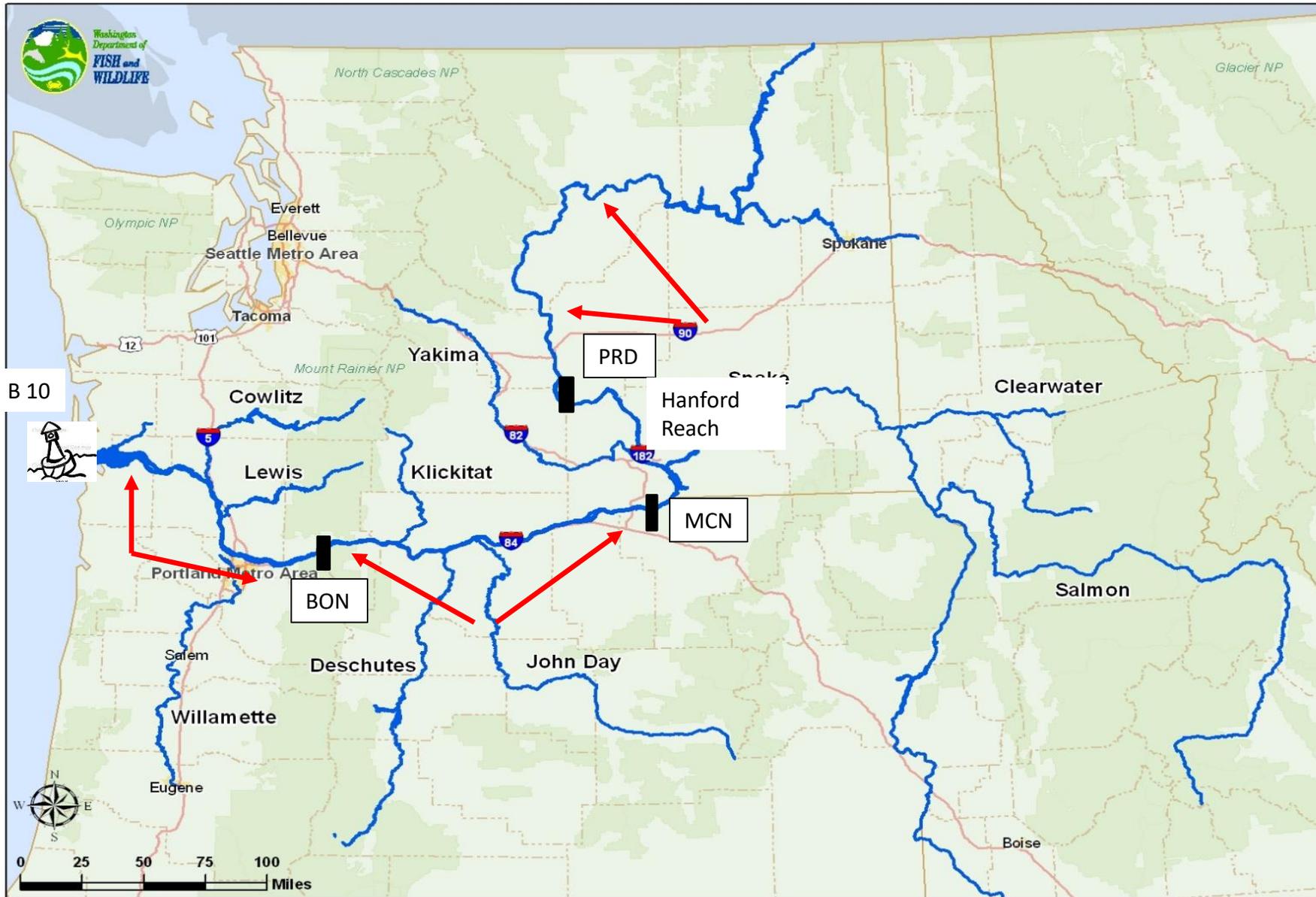
Summer Chinook Sport and Colville Tribal Harvest

Year	Sport Below Bonn	Sport Bonn to MCN	Sport MCN to PRD	Sport Above PRD	Colville Tribal	Total	Percent Below PRD	Percent Above PRD
2012	3,281	231	65	3,980	3,400	10,957	33%	67%
2013	2,058	176	148	2,899	3,452	8,733	27%	73%
2014	2,385	308	146	2,875	3,574	9,287	31%	69%
2015	6,152	609	177	4,823	10,410	22,170	31%	69%
2016	3,706	361	205	4,214	3,541	12,025	36%	64%
Average	3,516	337	148	3,758	4,875	12,634	31%	69%

Sockeye Sport Harvest

Year	Below Bonn	Bonn to MCN	MCN to PRD	Above PRD	Total	Percent Below PRD	Percent Above PRD
2012	5,486	909	301	31,627	38,323	17%	83%
2013	686	44	1,085	6,321	8,136	22%	78%
2014	2,474	107	3,172	30,668	36,420	16%	84%
2015	1,479	81	1,001	27,360	29,920	9%	91%
2016	1,127	200	na	na	1,327	-----	-----
Average	2,250	268	1,390	23,994	22,825	16%	84%

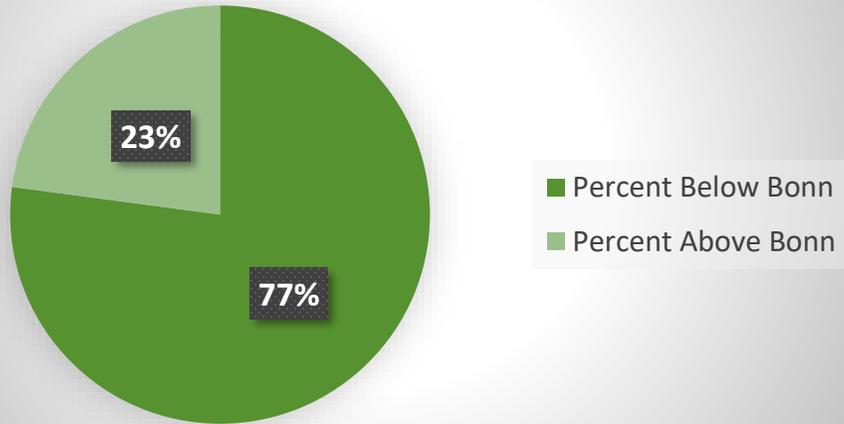
Fall Chinook Fishing Zones



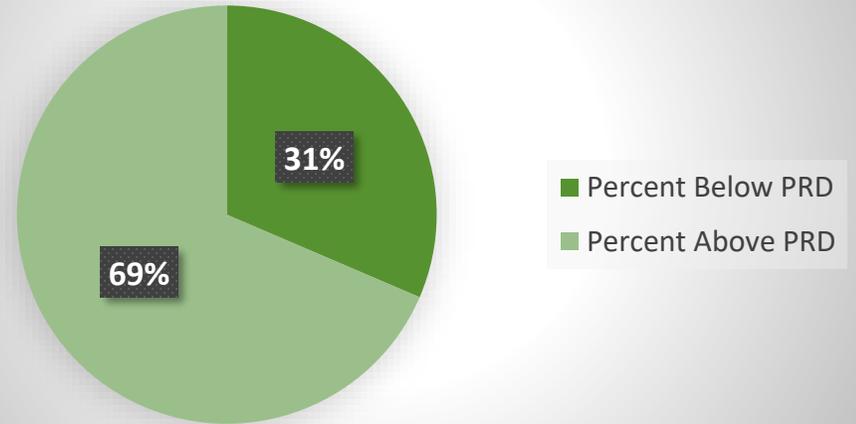
Upriver Bright (URB) Fall Chinook Sport Harvest

Year	Buoy 10	Below Bonn	Bonn to MCN	Hanford Reach	Total	Percent Below MCN	Percent Above MCN
2012	5,393	17,640	1,594	13,097	37,724	65%	35%
2013	10,045	24,136	4,680	24,906	63,767	61%	39%
2014	8,339	20,875	1,790	28,679	59,683	52%	48%
2015	16,639	31,161	4,840	33,885	86,525	61%	39%
2016	6229	18112	2743	16,860	43,944	62%	38%
Average	9,329	22,385	3,129	23,485	58,329	60%	40%

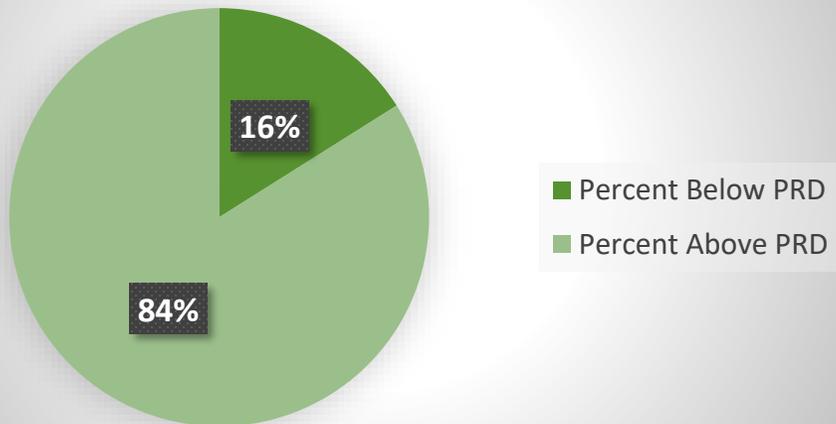
Upriver Spring Chinook



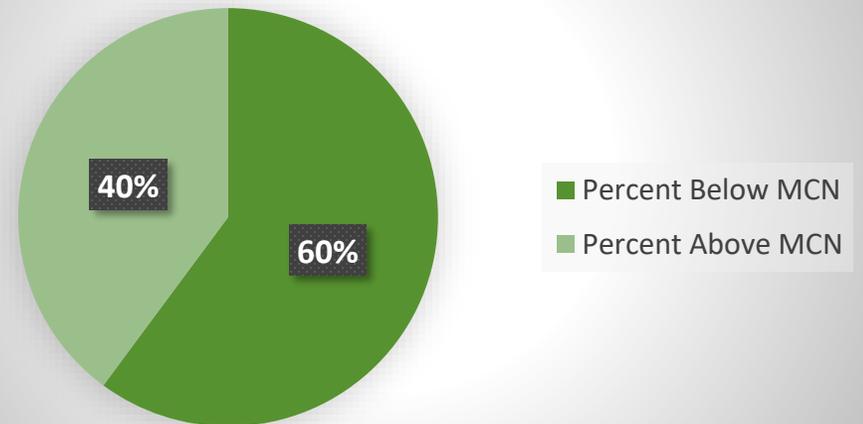
Summer Chinook



Sockeye

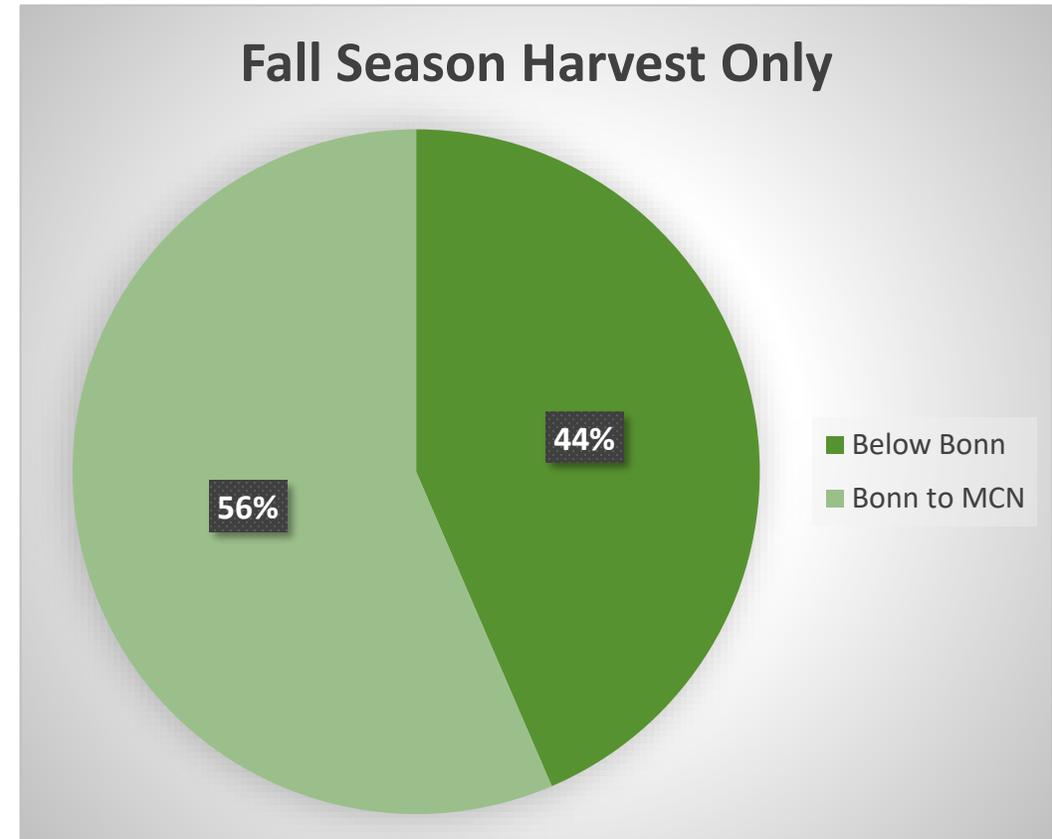


Upriver Bright Fall Chinook



Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Destined for areas above Bonneville Dam
- Harvested throughout the Columbia basin



SE Washington Concerns

- Similar letters from three SE Washington counties and the city of Walla Walla, concerning spring chinook management
- Concerns included:
 - Management framework and structure appears to favor downriver fishing opportunity at the expense of upriver opportunities
 - Specific framework issues include basis of sharing (ESA impacts, not catch) and application of the run size buffer
 - Columbia River basin fishery management should report to Olympia
 - Upriver/downriver sharing of spring Chinook harvest is disproportionate from their perspective; it does not align with angler residence patterns
 - Disproportionate sharing does not incentivize salmon recovery activities; upriver communities have large investments in recovery and do not receive the same economic benefits as downriver
 - Request for meaningful public input opportunities into allocation decisions, with all parties engaged (OR as well as WA)

Response to SE Wash Concerns

- Initiate a five year review (2013-2017) of the upriver/downriver allocation section of Policy C-3620. Engage the SE Washington counties in the design of that review process.
- Provide the context for the balancing of competing objectives that is the basis of upriver/downriver allocation in C-3620, and an explanation of the rationale for basing allocation on ESA impacts.

Allocation formula (Below/Above Bonneville)	Total WA recreational harvest	Diversity of recreational opportunity
50/50	Lowest. Half the fishery occurs in areas with little access to OR returns (eg. Willamette)	Highest. Fullest possible geographic range of fisheries and highest similarity between upriver and downriver opportunity
75/25	Median total harvest	Similar to 50/50 in number and range of fisheries, but less similarity in opportunity
100/0	Highest. Provides greatest access to returns to both OR and WA tributaries	Lowest. No opportunity above Bonneville

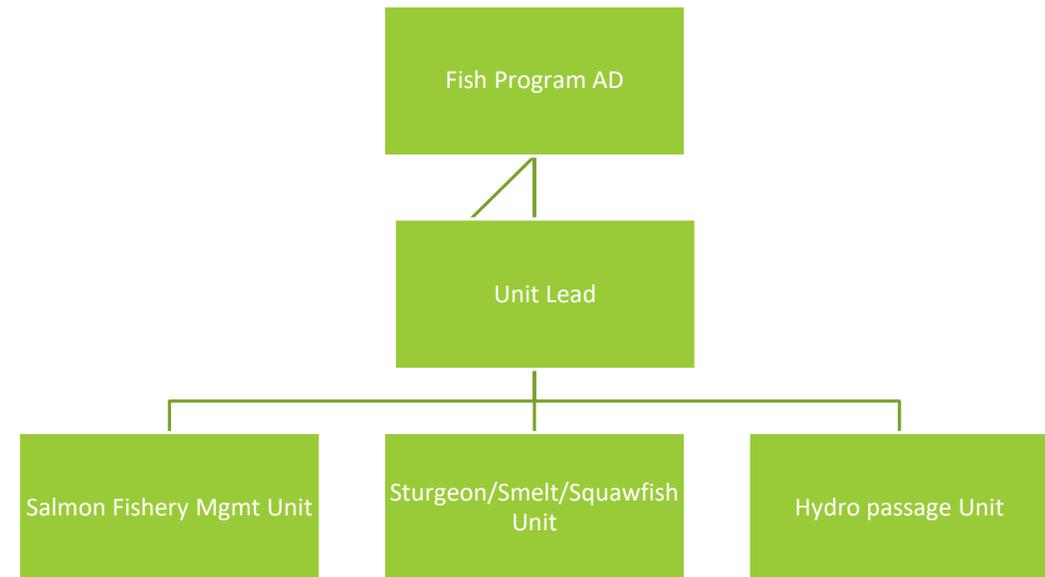
Status of Upper Columbia Fishery Management Plan

- Plan was drafted and reviewed by stakeholders in 2006
- Intended to provide guidance for non-treaty fishery management in the Upper Columbia in the context of the allocation agreement with the Colville Tribes, which was signed in 2007
- Plan has been implemented in draft form since 2007
- Provides abundance-based management criteria for non-treaty salmon and steelhead fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam in the mainstem and in tributaries
 - Consistent with recovery objectives for ESA listed upper Columbia populations
- Needs review and updating, as some aspects of the plan have become outdated

DFW Structural Changes

Recent decision to reorganize and form a Columbia River Management Unit with supervision in Olympia; many reasons for change including:

- Better integration of all-H approach to DFW approach to CR fishery management and hydro management
- Improve cross regional coordination of fishery management and provide increased support for regional staff working on hydro issues
- Centralize accountability, under Fish Program AD



Summary

- **Spring Chinook recreational fishery** – above Bonneville has averaged 22% of the harvest from 2013-2016, while managing for 25% of the impacts.
 - Run Size buffer – designed to protect upriver fisheries,
 - Catch balancing – affects all recreational fisheries equally.
- **Other species recreational catches** – upriver share ranges from 40% (upriver bright fall chinook) to 80% (Upper Columbia sockeye). More harvest upriver than downriver for three of five stocks considered. Provides some balance across species.
- **Stakeholder concerns** – Policy choice about upriver/downriver allocation should be reconsidered with greater public input; implementation issues create upriver disadvantage
- **Department response** – five year review of allocation is warranted; provide context for current allocation
- **Upper Columbia Fishery Management Plan** – has been implemented for a decade, needs review and updating

Questions?

